

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PLEAD FOR MORE AID FOR FEOF

1. LAO AMB. KHAMPHAN PANYA IN CALL ON EA DEPUTY MILLER DECEMBER 6 SAID FONMIN PHOUMI HAS PRESSED HIM THREE TIMES TO ASK THAT US INCREASE CONTRIBUTION TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE OPERATIONS FUND, ABOVE LEVEL OF LAST TWO YEARS, EVEN IF ONLY SYMBOLICALLY, AS A 'GOODWILL GESTURE' TO SHOW USG NOT HOSTILE TO PGNU. PHOUMI, HE SAID, ARGUED THAT IN THE PAST US HAD SAID IT WAITING FOR PEACE IN LAOS AND INCREASED AID FROM OTHER DONORS; NOW THAT THESE HAD COME ITS TIME FOR US ALSO TO HIKE FEOF CONTRIBUTION. KHAMPHAN ADDED THAT LAOS NEEDED MORE FOREIGN EXCHANGE THAN IN PAST YEARS BECAUSE OF WORLD WIDE INFLATION AND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. FINALLY, KHAMPHAN EXPRESSED PERSONAL HOPE THAT WE COULD MEET PHOUMI'S REQUEST TO HELP KHAMPHAN ENHANCE HIS RELATIONS WITH PHOUMI.

2. MILLER RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD EXAMINE PHOUMI'S RE-
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QUEST. HE SAID AT FIRST GLANCE ANY INCREASE IN FEOF CON-

TRIBUTION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO COME OUT OF OTHER US AID PROGRAM. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT USG CONTINUED TO BE CONCERNED WITH QUESTION OF LAO DEVALUATION, AND ASKED KHAMPHAN WHETHER THERE WAS ANY PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE. KHAMPHAN SAID HE HAD NO REPORT YET OF ANY DEVELOPMENT.

3. WE WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY COMMENT ON PHOUMI'S REQUEST.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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